"A" AWARD TO LOGAN COUNTY, ILLINOIS

Broadcast by John Bicket, War Food Administration, Lee Lucas, Chairman, Logan County War Board, Albert Gehlbach of Chester Township, Mrs. Ellis Volle, Ray Thompson, Alice Last, Mr. N. H. Anderson, Captain G. C. Norton of the St. Louis Quartermaster Market Center and Maurice L. DuMars, Radio Service, in the Department of Agriculture's portion of the National Farm and Home Hour, Tuesday, November 23, 1943, over stations associated with the Blue Network.

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WAYNE GRIFFIN:

Good morning from Lincoln, Illinois! This is Wayne Griffin speaking to you from the Lincoln Theatre in the county seat of Logan County -- about 150 miles southwest of Chicago. Logan county citizens have come here to receive the "A" award of the War Food Administration for agricultural achievement in the war year of 1943.

Nice friendly people here in Logan County. Think maybe they'd like to send a greeting to the rest of the Farm and Home Hour family, coast to coast.

How about it, Logan County?

APPLAUSE

There you are, neighbors, Logan County, Illinois says "Howdy -- wish you were here!"

Well, now we're going to hear why Logan County is receiving the "A" award, and we'll hear from some of the people who helped put their county over the top on the farm front. Duke DuMars is with us too. Duke's a part of the Farm and Home family down at Washington -- at the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Duke, carry on.

DU MARS:

O'kay, Wayne. But stick around.

GRIFFIN:

By the way, Duke, this is one of the first counties to receive the "A" award, isn't it?

DU MARS:

Yes sir! One of the first. Others so far include the great potato county in Maine -- Aroostook, where farmers this year produced nearly twice as many potatoes as they did last year; Franklin County, Kansas, where the farmers have adjusted their production to achieve a well-balanced program of war food production; and DeKalb County, here in Illinois, where the farmers have done an outstanding job in producing a special war crop -- hemp.

GRIFFIN:

Any significance in the order in which the counties get their awards?

DU MARS:

None at all. No single county has been singled out as ranking above all others. Instead, the food administration with the cooperation of the Army, is recognizing the great work of farm families everywhere in the country -- and particularly in those counties where their work adds up to an outstanding achievement.

GRIFFIN:

As it does here in Logan County, Illinois.

DU MARS:

Right. And now let's find out what Logan County's Achievement is.

GRIFFIN:

Mr. Bicket, that's your cue. Will you step up here please?

DU MARS:

John Bicket represents the State War Board and War Food Administration at the "A" award ceremony here today .... Mr. Bicket, the State War Board nominated Logan County for this award and the Food Administration chose it, isn't that right.

BICKET:

Yes.

DU MARS:

Will you tell us why the county was chosen?

BICKET AND DUMARS (AD LIB):

(increase in soybean and livestock production. Way job was organized -- spirit of cooperation.

GRIFFIN:

Now we know the "why", Here's Lee Lucas to tell us "How." Mr. Lucas is Chairman of the Logan County War Board.

DU MARS:

Hello, Lee. Nice to see you again.

LUCAS AND DU MARS (AD LIB):

(Want over all goals in spite of bad weather in spring, shortage of machinery replacements, labor. Neighbors -- town people -- youngsters -- planted corn and soybeans in 10 days instead of 18-20).

GRIFFIN:

Next we're going to hear from a farmer who knows the details of Logan County farm achievement. Albert Gehlbach of Chester Township.

DUMARS AND GELBACH (AD LIB):

Neighbors worked together as soon as each field got dry enough. Determination meet goals. Planted more soybeans than would have under regular rotation. Sacrificed to do it. Used legume pasture to partly overcome protein feed shortage.)

GRIFFIN:
Duke, I've never yet seen the time when the farm women got the credit they deserve for farm achievement.

DUMARS:
Wouldn't be possible -- they deserve so much credit -- they do so much.

GRIFFIN:
That's why I'm so glad we can have with us Mrs. Ellis Volle, a farm homemaker who lives near Chestnut.

DU MARS AND MRS. VOLLE (AD LIB):
(Worked in field as well as home. Combined beans. Doubled chicken production. Is 4-H leader. Works long hours).

GRIFFIN:
Now let's hear from another farmer. Here's Ray Thompson, who does a big job of farming up near Atlanta, Illinois, and also manages an elevator.

DU MARS:
Hello, Mr. Thompson. Grand to see you again, after 3 yrs. As an elevator man, you can tell us whether crops all harvested.

THOMPSON AND DU MARS (AD LIB):

(Harvest about done. Same way as planted. Worked together. Example of Ray Staats who left combine where neighbors could see he was done and could hel them, altho he needed to pick corn. Neighbors helped those who had accidents and sickness. All recognized aid of Providence.)

GRIFFIN:
Adults aren't the only ones who put their whole selves into the work. Youngsters did too. Representing them, here's Alice Last of Beason.

DU MARS AND ALICE LAST (AD LIB):

(4-H Club member. Has sister in WAVE. Alice did housework so mother could work outside. Gardened, canned, raised beef calf.)

DU MARS:
Say, Wayne, how about introducing the Logan County farm adviser, of the Extension Service.

GRIFFIN:
Right now. Mr. N.H. Anderson.

DU MARS AND ANDERSON (AD LIB):

(Farm labor situation. Logan county people responded well. One town man -- planted 119A of corn for 3 farmers; not docked by boss for time off... hi s. students helped...Town people share honor of "A" award.

GRIFFIN:
Come to think of it, Duke, we haven't heard a great deal about the "A" award itself.

DU MARS:

Well, we haven't heard from the Army yet.

The farm "A" awards are essentially the same as military citations to members of the armed forces for outstanding or heroic service. Therefore, the award to the farmers of Logan county is being made by the United States Army -- represented here by Captain G. C. Norton of the St. Louis Quartermaster Market Center.

Captain Norton, it's been said many times that food is a weapon....do you suppose we've heard it so much that we've begun to take it too much for granted?

NORTON:

Judging from records like Logan County has made, I'd say we are becoming more and more aware of the importance of food. But it does no harm to remind ourselves that victory depends just as much on our ability to produce food as it does on our ability to produce guns, ships and planes. Farms are war factories too

DU MARS:

While we're "reminding ourselves", tell us how the Army is using the products from the factories on the farms?

NORTON:

In many ways, Mr. DuMars. In many more ways than we have ever used them in war. Feeding our soldiers is a mighty big job, of course. For every man who is on the fighting line across the seas we have to keep a nine months supply of food on hand.

That means 270 days supply of food for every man outside the United States... And for soldiers training in this country, a three months supply.

DUMARS:

In keeping that much of a stockpile ahead you have to figure, of course, on possible ship sinkings.

NORTON:

And destruction by the enemy of supplies close to the battlefront. And we have to be ready for other unforeseen circumstances.

But important as it is, food for our fighting men is only part of the proble

DUMARS:

For instance, our soldiers are making friends with people in North Africa and Italy by providing them with certain necessities, including food.

NORTON:

Exactly ... Hitler tries to keep people in slavery by starving them. We make friends of them with food. The more territory we liberate the more people we will have to feed -- until they're in position to feed themselves.

DU MARS:

And our allies -- we can't overlook them.

NORTON:

That's right. The food we provide our Allies fights for freedom too. We have sent huge quantities of food to England and to Russia. To them, our food is a vital weapon. But to come back just a minute to our own Army. We see to it that our soldiers have the best food, of any Army in the world, and, at the same time, we try to conserve every scrap. Getting and using food wisely is vital to our success.

DU MARS:

That's why the Army attaches so much importance to good production records -, like the record of Logan County, Illinois.

NORTON:

That's why we're proud to have a part in honoring the farmers in Logan County and in all parts of America for their production. That's why we're proud to present the "A" production award to the farmers of Logan County... because Logan County farmers are typical of American farmers everywhere. They've all performed an amazing task... a task for which all citizens of the United States...and the United Nations can say..."Well done, farmers!"

DUMARS:

Thank you, Captain G. C. Norton.

GRIFFIN:

People of Logan County, I wonder if you have something else to say to your fellow Americans. We've heard today, and we all know, about the importance of food as a weapon. AND we know that victory is still not ours. You went over the top this year. Now what do you say -- are you going over the top again in 1944?

CROWD: SPONTANEOUS RESPONSE)

GRIFFIN:

Farm and Home friends, that's Logan County, Illinois, speaking to you. We've been talking to you from the Lincoln theater in Lincoln, the county seat, on the occasion of the "A" award ceremony. The "A" flag will fly beneath the stars and stripes here in Lincoln and in many other county seats across the country,, symbolizing devotion to duty and patriotic achievement on the farm front -- by soldiers of the soil. Wayne Griffin speaking. To continue the National Farm and Home Hour, we return you to Chicago.

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